

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the application filed May 9, 2001. With this amendment, claim 29 is amended and new claims 37-42 are added. Support for the new claims can be found at, for example, page 27, lines 15-25.

Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

29. (Amended) A method performed in a flow diagnostic system for detecting a degrading primary element or degrading impulse piping in a process control system, comprising:

- obtaining a measurement signal related to flow of a process fluid;
- retrieving a baseline statistical parameter for a baseline primary element or impulse piping from a memory;
- calculating a current statistical parameter of the measurement signal;
- comparing the baseline statistical parameter to the current statistical parameter; and
- providing a diagnostic output based upon the step of comparing, the diagnostic output indicative of a degrading primary element or impulse piping.

37. (New) The flow diagnostic system of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic data is indicative of an estimate of a residual lifetime.

38. (New) The flow diagnostic system of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic data is indicative of a failure of a residual lifetime.

39. (New) The flow diagnostic system of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic data is indicative of an impending failure of a residual lifetime.

40. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the diagnostic output provides a residual lifetime estimate.

41. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the diagnostic output

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is indicative of a failure.

42. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the diagnostic output  
is indicative of an impending failure.